NYBG/125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2016

Two New Volumes in the Landmark Flora Neotropica Series Now Available From The New York Botanical Garden Press

Documenting the Plants of the New World Tropics, Flora Neotropica is a Key Part Of NYBG's Contribution to World Flora Online, the Comprehensive Plant Database



Quiina glaziovii, one of the species described in *Quiinaceae* (Photo by Wayt Thomas, Ph.D.)



Prionolejeunea saccatiloba, one of the species described in *Prionolejeunea* (Photo by Michaela Sonnleitner, Ph.D.)

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden Press is proud to announce the publication of two new volumes in its premier series of scientific publications about the tropical plants of the Americas, Flora Neotropica. *Quiinaceae*, by Julio V. Schneider and Georg Zizka, and *Prionolejeunea (Lejeuneaceae, Jungermanniopsida)*, by Anna Luiza Ilkiu-Borges, are volumes 115 and 116, respectively, in the series, which began in 1967 and now forms a major component of the Botanical Garden's contribution to World Flora Online, an online database that will provide comprehensive information about all of the world's plants.

Quiinaceae, the subject of the first new title in the series, is a family of trees and shrubs native to the New World Tropics, mainly of the humid Amazon lowland rain forests. It comprises four genera and 46 species. The new volume, which is the first modern monographic treatment of the Quiinaceae, provides full descriptions, nomenclature, identification keys, and distribution maps. Some classification schemes have proposed that the Quiinaceae be treated as a sub-family of the Ochnaceae, but the authors note that all studies to date have shown that the

Quiinaceae are monophyletic—that is, have evolved from a common ancestor—and so they have chosen to treat the group as an independent family.

The second new volume covers *Prionolejeunea*, a genus of 24 African and American species in the family Lejeuneaceae, the most advanced and highly specialized family of leafy liverworts, which have characteristics similar to mosses. The family is part of the class Jungermanniopsida, one of the main groupings of liverworts. All but two of the *Prionolejeunea* species are found in the Americas, where they usually grow on leaves or tree bark in moist lowland to lower montane rain forests. This new volume aims at bringing order to a genus that has been described as chaotic. It revises the species in the genus based on the study of herbarium collections, including type specimens, which are the reference specimens upon which a species description is based, and other information such as DNA data. In addition, it provides the first identification key for *Prionolejeunea*.

The Flora Neotropica series provides comprehensive treatments of plant groups or families growing in the Americas between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. In addition to authoritative plant classifications and descriptions, the volumes in the series include information on economic botany, conservation, evolutionary relationships, ecology, and anatomy, among other topics. Each volume is illustrated with line drawings, black and white photographs, and distribution maps. The series is the official publication of the Organization for Flora Neotropica, which was established in 1964 with the mission of producing a published inventory of the plants of the entire New World tropics.

Flora Neotropica is one of the Botanical Garden's largest contributions to World Flora Online, which will be the most authoritative source of scientifically verified data about all of the world's known plants—more than 350,000 species—when it is completed in 2020.

The New York Botanical Garden, one of four botanical gardens leading the project, is uploading much of the contents of Flora Neotropica to World Flora Online, which will aid researchers, conservation officials, policymakers, and other interested parties in the effort to preserve the plants of the world, one of Earth's most important resources. World Flora Online includes technical descriptions of genera and species, comments on ecology and distribution, discussions, and links to the sources of this information.

About The Authors of Quiinaceae

Dr. Julio V. Schneider is a Research Associate at the Senckenberg Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. His research interests are the systematics and evolution of selected angiosperm groups, particularly Ochnaceae s.I./Malpighiales and Malvaceae. He has carried out fieldwork in Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Cuba, and Austria.

Prof. Dr. Georg Zizka is a Professor of Botany at Goethe University and head of the Department of Botany and Molecular Evolution at the Senckenberg Research Institute, both in Frankfurt, Germany. He is particularly interested in the systematics and evolution of Poales (especially Bromeliaceae), Quiinaceae, West African flora and vegetation, and changes in island floras.

About The Author of *Prionolejeunea (Lejeuneaceae, Jungermanniopsida)*

Dr. Anna Luiza Ilkiu-Borges is the head of the Department of Botany at the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, a natural history museum and research institution in Belém, Brazil. Her research focuses on the systematics and biogeography of tropical liverworts, especially those of Brazil.

About The New York Botanical Garden Press

Since 1896 The New York Botanical Garden Press (<u>nybgpress.org</u>) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by plant scientists from around the world. Its mission is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, conservation, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

Ordering Information: *Quiinaceae* (\$104.99 hardcover) and *Prionolejeunea (Lejeuneaceae, Jungermanniopsida)* (\$61.99, hardcover) are available through NYBG Press. To order, go to nybgpress.org or call 718.817.8721.

###

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and science. Learn more: <u>nybg.org</u>

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

Contact: Stevenson Swanson at 718.817.8512/8616; sswanson@nybg.org.